Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A sealed electrical connector assembly comprising:

a support structure having an interior cavity in which electrical components can be disposed;

a molded plastic connector housing overmolded about at least a portion of the support structure at an interface area which defines a potential gap between the support structure and the connector housing which would form a potential migratory path for contaminants from the environment into the interior cavity and the electrical components therein; and

a compliant layer deposited between the support structure and the overmolded connector housing over at least a portion of said interface area to fill and seal ~~the portion of the interface area~~ said gap when the molded plastic housing cures to protect the interior electrical components from the environment.

2. (original) The electrical connector assembly of claim 1 wherein said compliant layer comprises a conformal film coated on the support structure in said at least a portion of said interface area before the housing is overmolded on the support structure.

3. (original) The electrical connector assembly of claim 2 wherein said conformal film comprises a silicone adhesive.

4. (original) The electrical connector assembly of claim 2 wherein said conformal film comprises a thermoplastic elastomer.

5. (original) The electrical connector assembly of claim 1 wherein said compliant layer comprises a preformed component.

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) The electrical connector assembly of ~~claim 6~~ claim 26 wherein said interface area comprises a tongue on the support structure with the connector housing overmolded thereabout.

8. (original) The electrical connector assembly of claim 7 wherein said compliant layer is deposited on said tongue prior to said connector housing being overmolded thereabout.

9. (original) The electrical connector assembly of claim 8 wherein said tongue comprises a peripheral flange about a passage in the support structure in which the connector housing is molded.

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) The electrical connector assembly of ~~claim 10~~ claim 27 wherein said compliant layer is deposited about said peripheral flange.

12. (original) A sealed electrical connector assembly, comprising:

a support structure in the form of a casing having an interior cavity, a connector-receiving passage communicating with the cavity and an upstanding flange about the passage:

a molded plastic connector housing overmolded about the peripheral flange and in the passage; and

a compliant layer deposited about the peripheral flange before the connector housing is overmolded thereabout.

13. (original) The electrical connector assembly of claim 12 wherein said compliant layer comprises a conformal film coated on the peripheral flange before the connector housing is overmolded thereabout.

14. (original) The electrical connector assembly of claim 13 wherein said conformal film comprises a silicone adhesive.

15. (original) The electrical connector assembly of claim 13 wherein said conformal film comprises a thermoplastic elastomer.

16. (original) The electrical connector assembly of claim 12 wherein said compliant layer comprises a preformed component.

17. (currently amended) A sealed electrical connector assembly, comprising:

a first, rigid connector component having an interior cavity in which electrical components can be disposed;

a second, molded plastic connector component overmolded about at least a portion of the first connector component at an interface area therebetween which defines a potential gap between the first and second connector components which would form a potential migratory path for contaminants from the environment into the interior cavity and the electrical components therein; and

a compliant layer deposited between the connector components over at least a portion of said interface area to fill and seal ~~the portion of the interface area~~ said gap when the molded plastic component cures to protect the interior electrical components from contaminants migrating into the interior cavity.

18. (original) The electrical connector assembly of claim 17 wherein said compliant layer comprises a conformal film coated on the first connector component in said at least a portion of said interface area before the second component is overmolded on the first connector component.

19. (original) The electrical connector assembly of claim 18 wherein said conformal film comprises a silicone adhesive.

20. (original) The electrical connector assembly of claim 18 wherein said conformal film comprises a thermoplastic adhesive.

21. (original) The electrical connector assembly of claim 17 wherein said compliant layer comprises a preformed component.

22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 22~~ claim 28 including the step of providing said compliant layer as a conformal film coated on the interface area of the support structure before the housing is overmolded on the support structure.

24. (original) The method of claim 23 including providing said conformal film of silicone adhesive material.

25. (original) The method of claim 23 including providing said conformal film of thermoplastic elastomer material.

26. (new) A sealed electrical connector assembly, comprising:

a support structure;

a molded plastic connector housing overmolded about at least a portion of the support structure at an interface area comprising a tongue-and-groove structure between the support structure and the connector housing; and

a compliant layer deposited between the support structure and the overmolded connector housing over at least a portion of said interface area to fill and seal the portion of the interface area when the molded plastic housing cures.

27. (new) A sealed electrical connector assembly, comprising:

a support structure comprising a two-part structure including a base part and a cover part forming an interior cavity therebetween, the cover part including a connector-receiving passage having an upstanding peripheral flange thereabout;

a molded plastic connector housing overmolded about at least a portion of the support structure at an interface area including the peripheral flange and in the passage; and

a compliant layer deposited between the support structure and the overmolded connector housing over at least a portion of said interface area to fill and seal the portion of the interface area when the molded plastic housing cures.

28. (new) A method of fabricating a sealed electrical connector assembly, comprising the steps of:

providing a support structure having an interior cavity in which electrical components can be disposed;

overmolding a molded plastic connector housing about at least a portion of the support structure at an interface area which defines a potential gap between the support structure and the connector housing which would form a potential migratory path for contaminants from the environment into the interior cavity and the electrical components therein; and

depositing a compliant layer on the support structure before the connector housing is overmolded about the interface area, the compliant layer filling and sealing said gap when the molded plastic housing cures to protect the interior electrical components from the environment.